



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,583	11/13/2003	Gordon Clark	2316.1816US01	1697
23552	7590	11/16/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			TRAN, DUE NGOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/714,583		CLARK ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Due N. Tran		2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/12/05 / 1/19/09</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Welch et al (US 5,218,519) in view of Harker (US 6,823,475).
2. With respect to claim 1, Welch discloses a patch panel module comprising: a faceplate having a front opening (Fig. 1 elements 36, 38), a module card (Fig. 1 element 60) attached to the housing by a snap-fit connection (Fig. 1 elements 22, 26), the module card including a front connector positioned adjacent to the front opening (Fig. 1 elements 70, 72), and a rear connector located at an end of the module card opposite the front connector (Element 74, 76), however, Welch does not disclose expressly a housing having a generally L-shaped construction.

The Harker reference, however, discloses a patch panel module with a housing having a generally L-shaped construction (Fig. 2 elements 2 and 12).

Welch and Harker are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor (panel module).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add a housing having a generally L-shaped construction to the panel module of Welch.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been obvious in view of the teaching of Harker so that it could enhance the strength between the module card to the housing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Harker with Welch for the benefit of being increasing the strength between the module card and the housing to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

3. With respect to claim 2, Welch discloses the patch panel module further including a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis, the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab (Fig. 1 element 22).

4. With respect to claim 3, Harker discloses the patch panel module wherein the L-shaped construction is defined by the face plate and a housing side (Fig. 2 elements 2 and 12), the face plate being oriented generally perpendicular to the module card (Fig. 2 element 12) and the housing side being oriented generally parallel to the module card (Fig. 2 element 2).

5. With respect to claim 6, Welch discloses the patch panel module wherein the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab (Fig. 1 element 26).

6. With respect to claim 7, Welch discloses the patch panel module wherein the snap-fit connection includes at least one latch formed on the housing side of the L-shaped construction, the latch being arranged to engage a hole formed in the module card (Fig. 1 element 28,30).

Art Unit: 2841

7. With respect to claim 8, Welch discloses a patch panel module comprising: a face plate including at least one front opening (Fig. 1 elements 36, 38), a module card having a front connector (Fig. 1 elements 70, 72) and a rear connector (Fig. 1 elements 74, 76), the front connector being positioned adjacent to the front opening of the housing, the module card being secured to the housing by a retaining structure, the retaining structure including: a flexible latch formed on the housing side (Fig. 1 elements 22, 26) ; and a hole formed in the module card (Fig. 1 element 68); wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card a module card (Fig. 1 elements 28, 30), however, Welch does not disclose expressly a housing including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another.

The Harker reference, however, discloses a patch panel module having a housing including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another (Fig. 2 elements 2 and 12).

Welch and Harker are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor (panel module).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add a housing including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate and housing side being oriented generally perpendicular to one another.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been obvious in view of the teaching of Harker so that it could enhance the strength between the module card to the housing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Harker with Welch for the benefit of being increasing the strength between the module card and the housing to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

8. With respect to claim 9, Welch discloses the patch panel module further including a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis, the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab extending from the housing (Fig. 1 element 22).

9. With respect to claim 12, Welch discloses the patch panel module wherein the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab extending from the housing (Fig. 1 element 26).

10. Claims 4-5,10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Welch et al (US 5,218,519) in view of Harker (US 6,823,475) and in view of Fritz (US 6,707,686).

11. With respect to claims 4 and 10, Welch and Harker disclose a patch panel module in accordance with claims 3 and 8; however, they both do not disclose expressly wherein the housing further includes a handle extending outward from the housing side.

The Fritz reference, however, discloses a patch panel module with includes a handle outward from the housing side (Fig. 17A element 138).

Welch, Harker and Fritz are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor (panel module).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add a handle to the panel module of Welch.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been obvious in view of the teaching of Fritz so that the panel module could easily remove from the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fritz with Welch and Harker for the benefit of being easily to remove the panel module from the system to obtain the invention as specified in claims 4 and 10.

12. With respect to claims 5 and 11, Welch and Harker disclose a patch panel module in accordance with claims 3 and 8; however, they both do not disclose expressly wherein an aperture formed between the face plate and housing side for view an LED positioned on the module card.

The Fritz reference, however, discloses a patch panel module with includes a handle outward from the housing side (Fig. 17A element 174).

Welch, Harker and Fritz are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor (panel module).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add an aperture between the face plate and housing side for view an LED positioned on the module card.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been obvious in view of the teaching of Fritz so that the user is able to recognize if there is power on the module or not.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fritz with Welch and Harker for the benefit of being able to recognize if there is power on the module or not to obtain the invention as specified in claims 5 and 11.

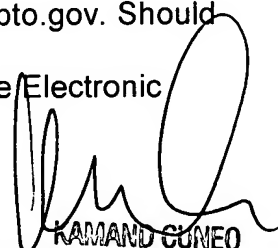
13. Regarding to the method claims 13-14 one skill in the art would necessarily perform the recited instruction steps for assembling a patch panel module rejected above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Due N. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-5984. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Thursday, 9:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KAMAND CUNEO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800